



State of Wisconsin



State of Michigan

September 14, 2006

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:


Earlier this week, your administration released \$80 million in energy assistance funding to fourteen states in anticipation of the winter heating season. Unfortunately, your announcement left Midwestern states in the cold by designing a formula that excludes all states west of Pennsylvania, except Alaska.

The Department of Health and Human Services said that the heating assistance would flow to states, "in which low-income households make greatest use of fuel oil to heat their homes." Since most Midwestern states rely on natural gas, this arbitrary standard excludes many states with long, cold winters and large numbers of families suffering from severe heating cost increases.

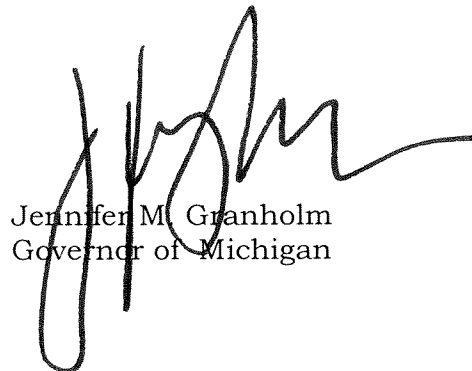
Directing the vast majority of the funding to eastern states -- including some with warmer climates and shorter winters than our states -- while denying needed heating assistance to Midwestern states is completely inattentive to the needs of our struggling families. As families in the Midwest prepare for a long, cold winter with rising utility bills, the Bush Administration must put all existing dollars to use.

Mr. President, therefore we strongly urge you to release the remaining \$22 million in federal heating assistance funds to Wisconsin, Michigan and other states that were deprived of the same consideration given to east coast states.

Sincerely,



Jim Doyle  
Governor of Wisconsin



Jennifer M. Granholm  
Governor of Michigan